

Fall 10-21-2014

The Parthenon, October 21, 2014

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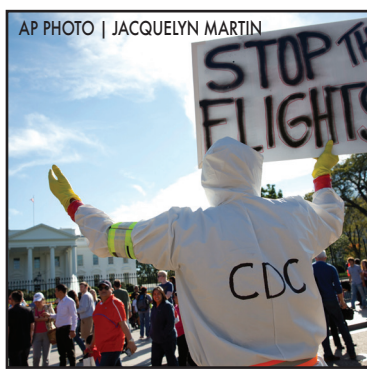
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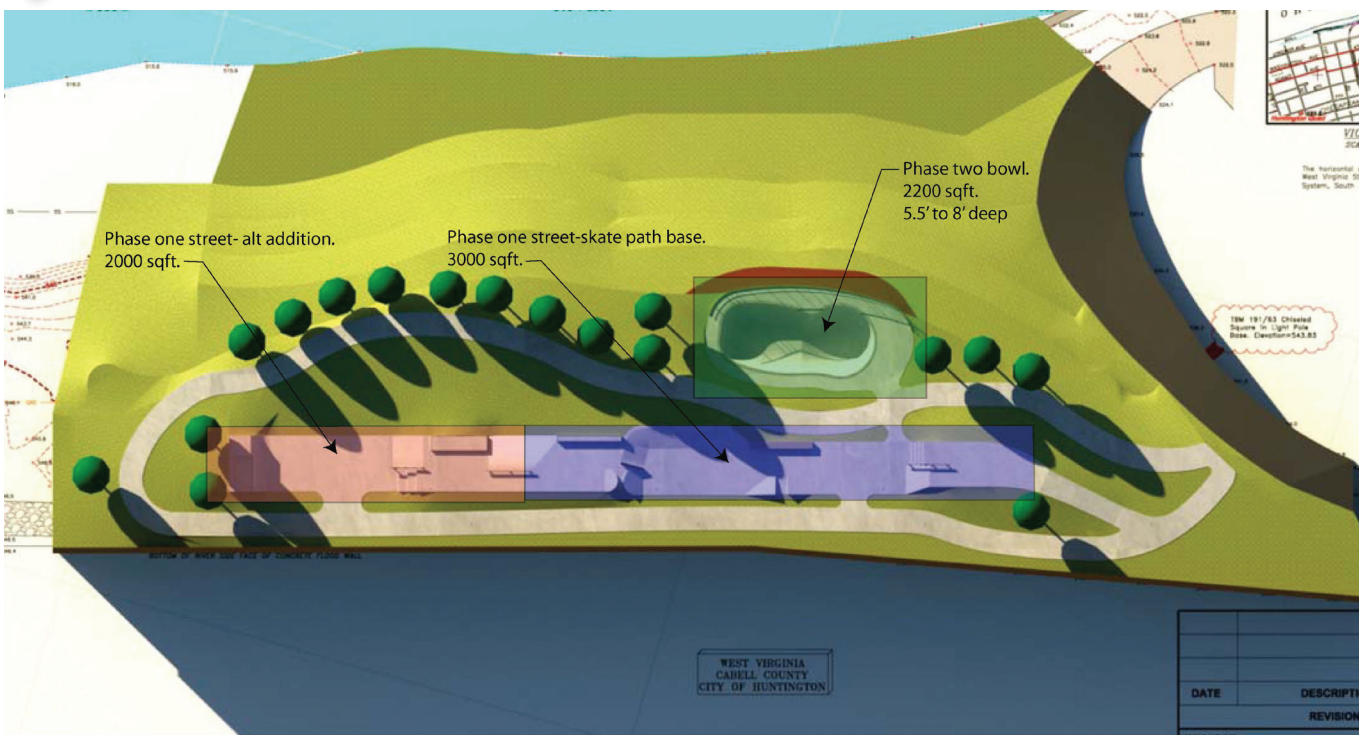
HIGH 57°
LOW 46°

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Continued community support needed for skate park success



Huntington Skatepark Masterplan

Huntington, West Virginia

Skatepark overview

AECOM TEAM PAIN

By **BRYAN BOZEMAN**
THE PARTHENON

Thanks to the community and local government, the first phase of Huntington's riverfront skate park is underway. Concrete was poured Friday, starting the process to build the park.

The city of Huntington and the tri-state community raised more than \$200 thousand for the skate park, and the efforts of local skaters, business owners and members of the local government are finally starting to show.

Project Manager for the city of Huntington, Don Kleppe, and local skater and project team member, Blair Burns,

said community support has been key to the project's success, but continued cooperation and support is needed make sure the project is finished on time.

"If the community wasn't involved, this project would not be happening," Blair said. "The city really wants to see the community's involvement when they are thinking about starting projects like this."

"People in the tri-state area have been pushing for a skate park since at least the 80s," Kleppe said. "Now that the project is finally underway, the city and everyone working on the project needs

the community to keep supporting them financially, as well as being patient and waiting to skate on the freshly poured concrete after it has totally settled.

"This has truly been a community happening, and I look forward to continued cooperation," Kleppe said. "We need to give this every opportunity to be successful, and it would be a shame to have something little, like someone skating on the concrete before it is settled, mess up the work of so many people."

See **SKATE PARK** | Page 5

MASSING AND HARRISON CONVERGE

Marshall University professors Peter Massing and Hayson Harrison unveiled a collaborative gallery, "Convergence," Monday at the Birke Art Gallery.



Fraud email hits MU accounts

By **ALEX JAMES**
THE PARTHENON

A fraudulent email that appeared to be regarding a Marshall University Contact Update was sent to a group of 657 recipients last week.

Students who received an email from a user account with the title fbrown@umc.edu with the subject "Must Read Urgent" are advised to delete it immediately as it was a fraudulent email message.

When accessed, the embedded URL redirects to a fraudulent web page in an attempt to capture Marshall emails, username and passwords. Students should be suspicious of any unexpected email messages that include file attachments, web URL's or are written with a sense of urgency that require computer passwords or reveal personal financial information.

"Generally, in higher education environments we embrace sharing and openness and collaboration and exploration but at the same time higher education environments are a very attractive target to folks that are malicious users. Often the term 'hacker' is used," said Jon B. Cutler, chief information security officer at Marshall.

With an educational network, there is a mix of personally-owned computers, mobile devices and tablets on the university network along with the computers used by faculty and staff. Each one of those has a different mission, and to have all of those continue to work and not be unduly constrained is sometimes a challenge.

"Often it's not any one solution in particular; often there are a variety of solutions," Cutler said. "Just the day to day responsibility of having a computer or any network-connected device is an important part of maintaining a healthy and safe device."

Often students will use the same login information for many accounts. An email address is an easy login just because it is hard to remember different login credentials. Students and faculty are likely to use their Marshall account. Using that same login and password at several different places that can leave an account vulnerable.

"If somebody completely unrelated to the university has their system compromised, the bad guys now take those accounts and go back to where that account is at and see if they can get into that university or website with the account credentials that they have obtained," Cutler said. "The strategy or protection there is to not use the same password for everything. An even more practical strategy would be to have a password or different passwords for very important things like your online bank account. Your Netflix site and Facebook information probably isn't as important as your banking information."

See **EMAIL** | Page 5

HALLOWEEN

Scholars asking for costumes

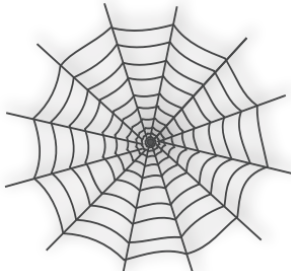
By **HALEY WADE**
THE PARTHENON

When organizations give back to the less fortunate, the focus tends to be donating essentials such as clothing, food and hygienic supplies. However, Marshall University's National Society of Collegiate Scholars is taking things a step further this year by organizing a halloween costume drive for children.

The drive, focusing on children ages 3 to 12, is asking for donations that will be given to the Huntington City Mission.

Sarah Govender, president of the NSCS Chapter at Marshall, said it is important to give back to the less fortunate.

"We were asked to have this drive because a lot of kids there don't have Halloween costumes," Govender said. "We wanted to give back so



the kids can have some of the same experiences we had as little kids."

Members of the group will end the drive with a Halloween party for the children Oct. 27. Govender said the idea came from another event NSCS had for the children last spring.

"We had an Easter egg hunt and Easter party at the Huntington City Mission, and I knew I wanted to do something there again this year," Govender said. "It's really something, seeing the looks on these kids' faces when they get to experience these sorts of events. It puts a smile on your own face."

NSCS member Sabrina Waseem said she is happy to be a part of the costume drive, and hopes to positively impact the children through it.

"I love the fact that we are donating costumes to children," Waseem said. "My friends and I have even made tutus to help contribute. We really want to give children the chance to smile and have fun."

Waseem said she thinks it is important to provide an experience for children, rather than just donating items.

"For most of these kids, Halloween probably hasn't been spent dressing up and trick-or-treating," Waseem said. "I think it's an experience they deserve, and one I'm happy to help make happen. It's about more than just giving the bare-minimum."

Govender said working to help others should not be seen as a task, and she hopes to see others following in the group's footsteps.

"I'd really like people to realize the importance of giving back, not because they feel like they have to, but because they really want to," Govender said. "This drive is nothing compared to what can really be done."

Bins to collect costumes will be placed in the Memorial Student Center as well as the freshman dorms and Marshall Commons.

Haley Wade can be contacted at wade68@marshall.edu.

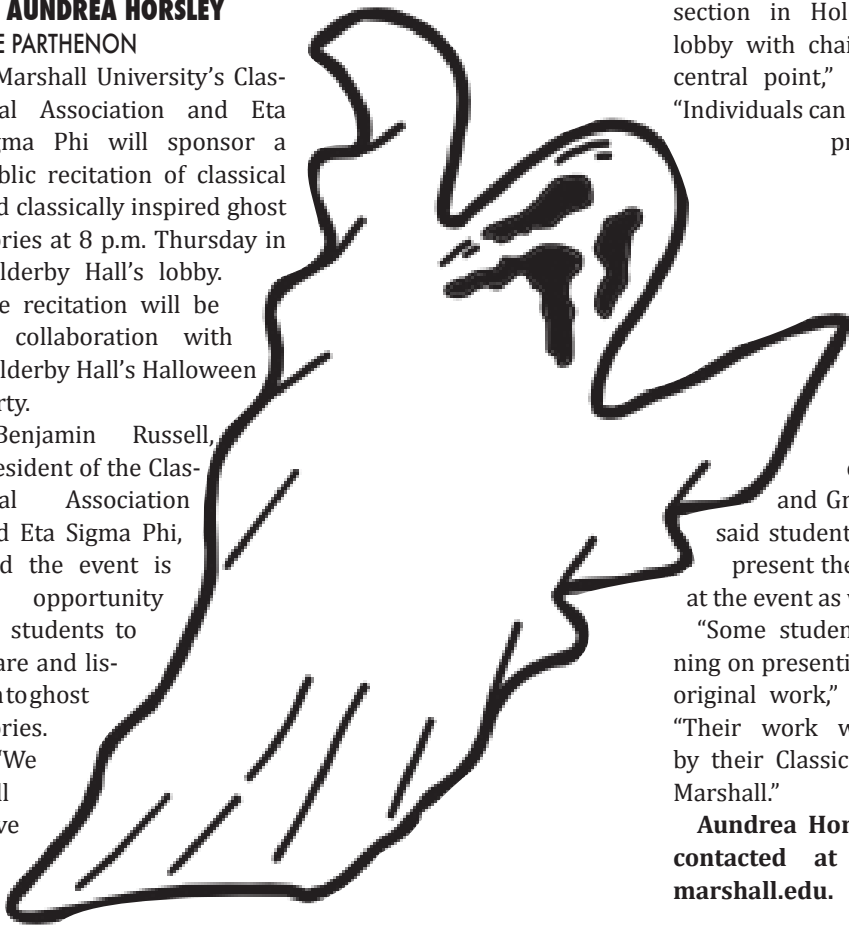
Classical ghost stories to be read on campus

By **AUNDREA HORSLEY**
THE PARTHENON

Marshall University's Classical Association and Eta Sigma Phi will sponsor a public recitation of classical and classically inspired ghost stories at 8 p.m. Thursday in Holderby Hall's lobby. The recitation will be in collaboration with Holderby Hall's Halloween party.

Benjamin Russell, president of the Classical Association and Eta Sigma Phi, said the event is an opportunity for students to share and listen to ghost stories.

"We will have a



section in Holderby Hall's lobby with chairs around a central point," Russell said. "Individuals can stand up and

present their chosen ghost story."

The stories recited will be from or inspired by stories from ancient Rome and Greece. Russell said students are able to present their own work at the event as well.

"Some students are planning on presenting their own original work," Russell said. "Their work was inspired by their Classical studies at Marshall."

Aundrea Horsley can be contacted at horsley9@marshall.edu.

Students attend free movie on CAB

By **BRITANIE MORGAN**
THE PARTHENON

Marshall at the Movies allows students to take a break from their normal routine and enjoy a free movie. Campus Activities Board offers a free movie every other Tuesday at Pullman Square Marquee Cinemas. This week students can attend the 7 p.m. showing of "Gone Girl." Students must present their Marshall University I.D. to gain admission.

CAB adviser Sarah Dyke said CAB wanted to offer free fun for students.

"Being a college student doesn't come cheap," Dyke said. "CAB wants to provide as much entertainment and fun for students, for free, as possible."

The ongoing event has

become a regular form of entertainment for several students.

Graduate student Timothy Paynter said he has attended several showings and enjoys the movies because it gives him a chance to relax with friends.

"I enjoy Marshall at the Movies because it gives students the opportunity to have a night of clean fun with their friends," Paynter said.

Students are given the opportunity to vote for the movie they want to see on CAB's Facebook page. CAB sends an email revealing the chosen movie before tickets are available for pick up. Movies like "Let's Be Cops" and "Maze Runner" are just a few of the movies chosen this semester.

Senior Micheale Morgan said

Marshall at the Movies gives her and her boyfriend a chance to go out together.

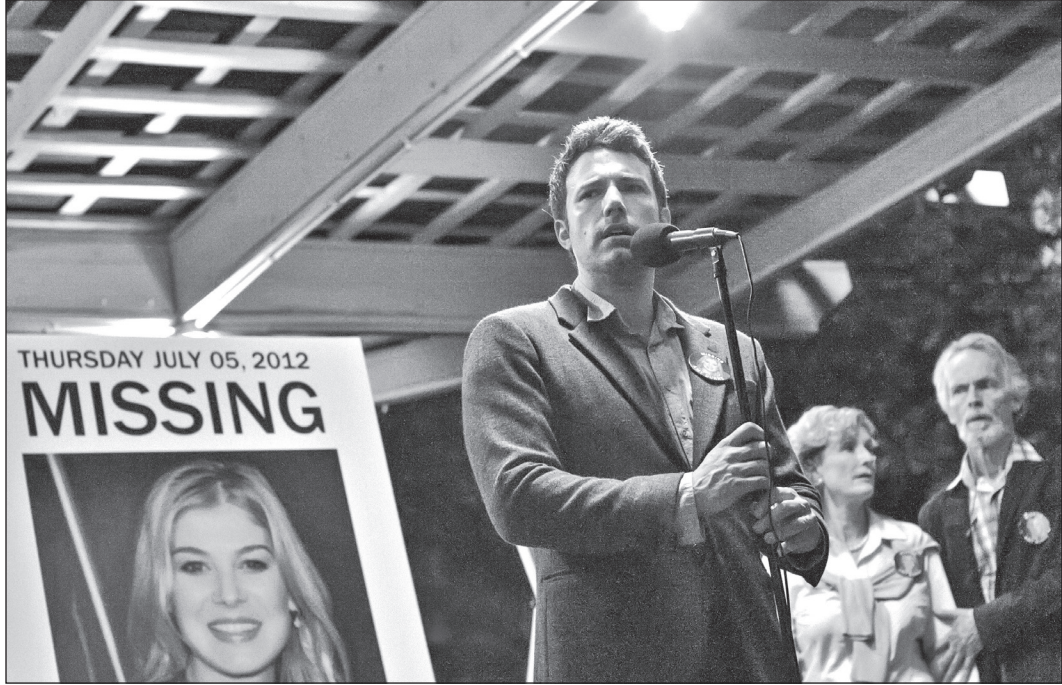
"It's hard to go on dates when you are a college student without a job," Morgan said. "This gives my boyfriend an excuse to take me out without worrying about money."

Dyke said students have embraced the event and tickets are going fast.

"It has been a huge hit so far, and many movie tickets sell out within a few hours," Dyke said.

Students can pick up tickets the day of the movie at the CAB office, located on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center.

Britanie Morgan can be contacted at morgan230@marshall.edu.



This image released by 20th Century Fox shows Ben Affleck in a scene from "Gone Girl."

AP PHOTO | 20TH CENTURY FOX | MERRICK MORTON

GET YOUR GOAL
WITH
WHOLE!

nutrition
inside

FIBER FACTS

Most Americans don't get enough fiber in their diet. In addition to keeping you feeling fuller longer and maintaining digestive regularity, fiber can help support a *healthy weight* and *lower the risk of heart disease* (pubmed.org). Much of the fiber in fruit is lost when the skin is removed. Furthermore, highly processed fruit foods may contain added sugar, preservatives, or unhealthy fat. Increase the fiber in your diet by eating whole fruits like *apples, pears, grapes, and blueberries*.

FIBER BY THE NUMBERS

Guys should get 38 grams per day.

Unpeeled Apple
4.4 grams

1 cup Apple Juice:
0.5 grams

1 cup of Applesauce
2.7 grams

Girls should get 25 grams per day.

Peeled Apple
2.1 grams

eatright.org

MARSHALL
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Student Association of
Nutrition and Dietetics

OUR PURPOSE: To provide busy college students with practical ways to promote healthy nutrition and activity in their lives. *Nutrition Inside* is reviewed by a registered dietitian. Consult a physician before beginning any major change in diet or exercise.
Created by: Jessica Walden, Anthony Bowen, & Dominador Lao II, MD
musand@marshall.edu

page designed and edited by JOCELYN GIBSON | gibson243@marshall.edu

SPORTS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2014 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM



True freshman catches record breaking pass

Tight end Ryan Yurachek plays at the University of Akron in OHIO Sept. 20. PHOTOS BY RICHARD CRANK

“It was the scariest half second of my life.” - Ryan Yurachek

By WILL VANCE
WOWK

To break the FBS record for most consecutive games with a touchdown pass, Marshall’s Rakeem Cato made a play that exemplifies his reputation as a selfless passer. The touchdown did not go to Tommy Shuler, his favorite target and childhood friend who has caught 20 career touchdowns from Cato. It didn’t go to Devon Johnson, the tight end turned runningback who would catch two touchdowns later in the game.

It went to true freshman tight end Ryan Yurachek, exactly as Cato has predicted the preceding week (albeit not a 99-yard touchdown pass like Cato had projected).

“I knew that was the play,” Cato said of the touchdown with five seconds left in the first quarter. “It’s kind of a play we only run in special situations. Everybody on the team knows that play.”

That play was essentially a misdirection pass, with Cato faking a quick pass to Tommy Shuler on the left side before coming back to the right to his real targets.

“It was just about me throwing to Devon (Johnson) or throwing it to Yurachek. Devon was covered at the time, so I looked up and saw Yurachek wide open,” Cato said. “I think it was a great throw and catch.”

While Cato’s account of the record-breaking touchdown

pass shows the calm of a veteran star, Yurachek’s reflects a young player making the first touchdown pass of his career. “It was the scariest half-second of my life when that ball was coming into my hands,” Yurachek said, “but probably the most exciting five or 10 after I made the catch.”

“With all the adrenaline going, I didn’t realize that was the (record-breaking) touchdown until two or three minutes

after,” Yurachek said, “I just went up to him and congratulated him.” Yurachek said the key to the play was Cato’s fake that got him open.

“Going back and watching film, (the play action fake) took the whole defense the wrong way. (Johnson) released into the flat and they kind of ran with him, so

Cato sent the pass to me.” With his first career touchdown catch under his belt, Yurachek is excited about how far he’s come in just his season of college football.

“It’s pretty surreal, I don’t think that many true freshmen in college really expect to come in and play as much as I have,” Yurachek said. “All you can ask for as a true freshman is to be on a top 25 team and play as much as I have.”

Devon Johnson, who set up the 1-yard touchdown to Yurachek with a season-long 71-yard run, said he couldn’t be happier to see his friend put his name in the record books.

“I was happy because Cato deserves it for the leadership he brings to the team and the love for the game he has,” Johnson said. “I was glad I was able to just be his teammate and see him smile and be happy.”

Cato’s milestone was made even more special because he was able to break it in front of his friends and family in his hometown of Miami.

“It was a blessing to break it there, to have a great group of family and friends there, nieces and nephews,” Cato said. “It was a blessing just to go out and perform in front of those guys and do it with a great group of men I’ve been playing with for a long time.”

Cato will try to extend his record Saturday at home against the Florida Atlantic Owls.

“All you can ask for as a true freshman is to be on a top 25 team and play as much as I have.”

—TIGHT END RYAN YURACHEK



Tight end Ryan Yurachek recieves a pass at the University of Akron Sept. 20.

Follow the Parthenon Sports Staff on Twitter!



@MUPnonSports

THE PARTHENON

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THE FIRST AMENDMENT | The Constitution of the United States of America

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

BE HERD: GUIDELINES FOR SENDING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please keep letters to the editor at 300 words or fewer. They must be saved in Microsoft Word and sent as an attachment. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. Guest column status will not be given at the author's request. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for grammar, libelous statements, available space or factual errors. Compelling

letters that are posted on The Parthenon website, www.marshallparthenon.com, can be printed at the discretion of the editors.

The opinions expressed in the columns and letters do not necessarily represent the views of The Parthenon staff.

Please send news releases to the editors at parthenon@marshall.edu. Please keep in mind, letters are printed based on timeliness, newsworthiness and space.

Column

The importance of email: Use it wisely

By TAYLOR STUCK
MANAGING EDITOR

Let me give you a glimpse inside the life of a student journalist/editor. I wake up to more than 20 emails every morning. On my drive to school, I get a few more that I check before class. After just a 50-minute class, I usually have 10 more emails. This cycle repeats throughout the day.

I know a thing or two about email. It baffles me when college students say they don't use their email. Don't you realize it's the only way to communicate anymore? You send resumes and apply for jobs via email.

I'll let you in on a secret: how you format your email matters. You have about two seconds to catch my attention. If I get an email with no subject line, I delete it. You could have been trying to tell me Jesus arrived on campus, but I wouldn't have

opened it. Tell me what I am about to open. It's called the subject line for a reason.

Once I open an email, you have three seconds to get my attention. I might just be a student like you, but assume I'm not. I'll take you seriously if you address me like an adult. It's like writing a letter. Once you've gotten my attention, you are golden.

To some, it might seem silly. This is something you should have learned in at least middle school. Maybe even in elementary school. But you won't believe how many emails The Parthenon gets from adults that are formatted horribly.

Consider this a Public Service Announcement. We are college students. Time to connect your email to your phone, use it for more than coupons and realize how important it is.

Taylor Stuck can be contacted at stuck7@marshall.edu.

Editorial

Where, oh where have the Platinum records gone?

The Recording Industry Association of America is the organization that has been awarding albums for copy sales since 1975 when "The Eagles: Their Greatest Hits" was established as the first Platinum Record.

This year is the first year since then that no artist has produced an album worthy of being dubbed a Platinum Record.

So far the best-selling albums of 2014 are the Frozen soundtrack, Beyoncé's self-titled LP, and Lorde's "Pure Heroine." These albums have gone platinum in 2014, but were released last year.

The top albums that have been released this year are Coldplay's "Ghost Stories" at 732,000 copies and Eric Church's "The Outsiders" at 730,000

copies, neither close to reaching the 1 million copies to receive a platinum title from the RIAA.

Both digital and physical album purchases are declining. Some of this can be attributed to the drop in album sales and rise in subscription-based services like Spotify. With these music services, users can listen to whatever they want for less than the price of one album each month. Interestingly enough, the RIAA does factor streaming into consideration when determining charts; every 100 plays via streaming counts as one download.

Physical album copies are going to slowly become like vinyl: a collector's item. They will sit on the shelves next to DVDs and Xbox 360 games.

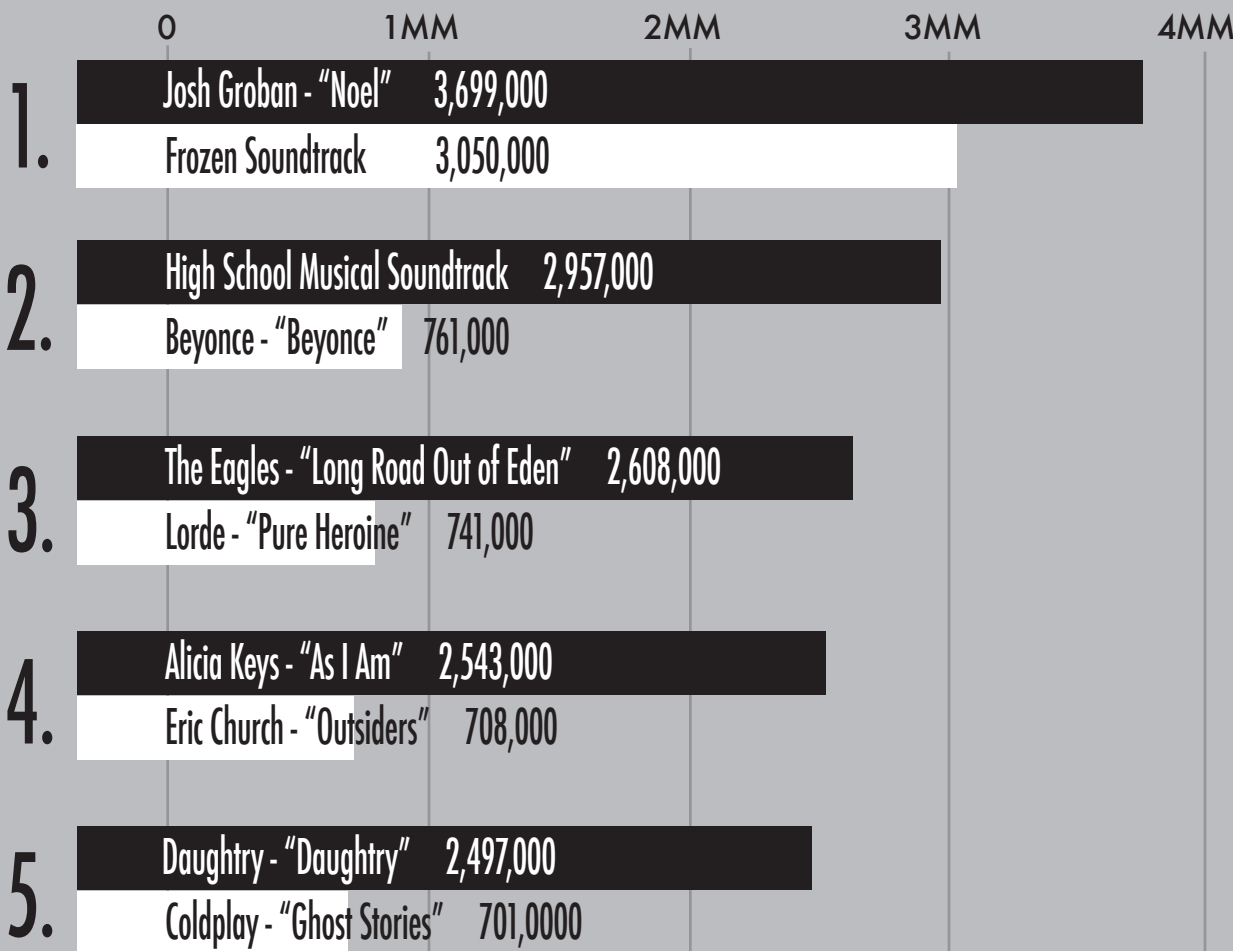
With streaming, you have all of your music (and everyone else's) anywhere you go without worrying about lugging a CD case around or having enough storage on your iPod.

The new way we consume music does create a kink in how the RIAA awards albums. Does 100 plays via streaming really equate one purchase?

The year is not yet over. Albums speculated to hit platinum shortly after release later this year include Taylor Swift's 1989, to be released in late October and Foo Fighters' Sonic Highways and Pink Floyd's The Endless River to be released in November. Will there be enough time at the end of the year for these albums to reach platinum before the year ends?

ALBUM SALES

2007 v 2014



*2007 - HTTP://WWW.REUTERS.COM/ARTICLE/2008/01/03/IDUS209824+03.JAN-2008+BW20080103
*2014 - HTTP://WWW.BILLBOARD.COM/ARTICLES/6259342/1994-VS-2014-TOP-SELLING-ALBUMS-COMPARISON

Column

American's Biggest Fear

By CAITLYN GRIMES
THE PARTHENON

In recent weeks, our nation has been faced with one of the most frightening health scares in the past decade. Headlines have been filled with new cases of infected individuals and the government's response to the potential epidemic. The scariest aspect of this potentially dire situation, isn't the deadly illness, but the way our leaders are handling it.

Throughout the beginning of Ebola entering the United States, first with the two aid workers, until today. There has been multiple cases of miscommunication as well as failure in procedure. This was evident with the infection of two healthcare workers in Texas.

The issue here lies with protocol, which was evident during a recent congressional oversight subcommittee. There is no uniform protocol for dealing with epidemics such as the ones we are faced with now.

Other countries have begun to close their borders and a recent cruise ship with lab technician that had treated the first patient, is being refused port. The second infected nurse was allowed to fly before being diagnosed, even though she was running a fever.

There are some leaders calling for the United States to close their borders to those countries with Ebola patients. What they don't realize is germs don't recognize



AP PHOTO | JACQUELYN MARTIN

Jeff Hulbert, of Annapolis, Md., protests U.S. handling of Ebola cases, outside of the White House Oct. 17 in Washington. "Travel should temporarily be restricted while American medical infrastructure gets up to speed," says Hulbert.

borders and those infected will find a way to other countries open to the United States.

The President has responded by appointing an "Ebola Czar", an individual with absolutely no disease control experience. The answer to this problem is not to attempt to shield the United States from something that does not fear bullets or flight bans. It is certainly not to appoint an almighty overseer.

Our government needs to stop instilling fear in the citizens and start instilling confidence. The leaders in disease control need to come together and decide the best standard in protocol for all health professionals to follow. Citizens can't have confidence in our disease control professionals if they cannot even protect themselves from the illness.



@MUParthenon

Alpha Sigma Phi auctions itself to raise funds for chapter

Members of Alpha Sigma Phi strut their stuff Monday at the Alpha Sigma Phi Service Auction to raise funds for the fraternity.

PHOTOS BY BRITANIE MORGAN | THE PARTHENON



By **BRITANIE MORGAN**
THE PARTHENON

The brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi strutted their stuff and offered their skills to the ladies of Marshall University Monday at the annual Alpha Sigma Phi Service Auction. Members listed services such as cooking, cleaning, being bodyguards, delivering Starbucks and several other services they were willing to perform for the highest bidder. Winning bids ranged from \$5 to \$60.

The proceeds of the event went to the organization to help fund the chapter.

Nick Curry, fundraising chair, said the auction is one of their biggest events of the year and helps to fund everything they do.

"The money goes to the chapter for general expenses," Curry said. "It helps keep us

above water and stay on campus."

Alpha Sigma Phi President Cameron Lyons said the auction is the best way for the brothers to raise money and have fun.

"This is definitely the most fun event we do all year," Lyons said. "The brothers have fun, the girls have fun, everyone has fun."

Alpha Sigma Phi pledge Joseph Byard said he was there to not only help raise money, but to see who was willing to bid on him.

"I want to test my luck, and see if I can actually get auctioned off," Byard said.

Delta Zeta pledge Peyton Riddick was in attendance at the fundraiser. She said the event was a fun way for everyone to get involved.

"It just shows how much fun the Greek

community has," Riddick said. "We can do philanthropy events and community service and still have fun."

Lacie Thaxton was also present for the auction. She said even though she did not bid, it was still fun to watch.

"It was so funny," Thaxton said. "I had a blast."

Curry said he was grateful for everyone's participation and enthusiasm.

"Tonight's turn out was really great," Curry said, "and I really appreciate everyone who came out."

Twenty-eight brothers were auctioned off, raising \$751.78 at the Service Auction for future events and chapter expenses.

Britanie Morgan can be contacted at morgan230@marshall.edu.

EMAIL Continued from page 1

Students who receive a fraudulent e-mail message are advised by the IT service desk to take the following actions: Delete the message from his or her inbox if it obviously fraudulent; as long as he or she did not attempt to open the attachment, reply or click on the web link, or provide any

personal information, no additional actions are needed; if he or she attempted to open an attachment or visited a website where he or she submitted a username, password or other sensitive information, he or she should immediately contact the Marshall IT Service Desk at (304) 696-3200 or itservicedesk@marshall.edu.

Alex James can be contacted at james142@marshall.edu.

SKATE PARK Continued from page 1

The engineers have a strict deadline because of the weather, and any setbacks due to tampering with the construction site could be devastating to the project.

The first phase of the project is a street style layout for skaters of all skill levels. It is designed to be about 300 feet long, which is about the length of a city block.

"We want people that like skating on the street to have a safe place to skate and a place to improve their skills," Kleppe said.

The first phase is scheduled for completion Dec. 1, and the second phase is scheduled in the spring. About \$400 thousand is still needed for all three phases to be completed.

Bryan Bozeman can be contacted at bozeman@marshall.edu.

Nielsen's top programs for Oct. 6-12

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prime-time viewership numbers compiled by Nielsen for Oct. 6-12. Listings include the week's ranking and viewership.

1. NFL Football: N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, NBC, 18.09 million.
2. "NCIS," CBS, 17.3 million.
3. "The Walking Dead," AMC, 17.29 million.
4. "The Big Bang Theory," (Monday, 8 p.m.), CBS, 15.94 million.
5. NFL Football: Indianapolis at Houston, CBS, 15.85 million.
6. "NCIS: New Orleans," CBS, 15.41 million.
7. "Sunday Night NFL Pre-Kick," NBC, 14.82 million.
8. "The OT," Fox, 14.56 million.
9. NFL Football: Seattle at Washington, ESPN, 17.29 million.
10. "The Voice," (Monday), NBC, 12.58 million.
11. "Dancing With the Stars," ABC, 12.32 million.
12. "Scorpion," CBS, 12.05 million.
13. "The Big Bang Theory," (Monday, 8:30 p.m.), CBS, 11.84 million.
14. "Madam Secretary," CBS, 11.45 million.
15. "Football Night in America, Part 3," NBC, 11.42 million.
16. "Blue Bloods," CBS, 11.09 million.
17. "How to Get Away with Murder," ABC, 10.81 million.
18. "Criminal Minds," CBS, 10.57 million.
19. "The Good Wife," CBS, 10.39 million.
20. "Modern Family," ABC, 10.3 million.

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British royal couples' second child due in April

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have confirmed that their second baby is due in April — the first time they have offered a month for the royal birth.

Kensington Palace also said in a statement Monday that the duchess, who has been sidelined by prolonged morning sickness, continues to improve. There was no word on the baby's gender.

The former Kate Middleton and Prince William

are scheduled to welcome Singapore President Tony Tan when he arrives on a four-day state visit this week. She is also expected to attend the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2014 award ceremony.

The duchess canceled several engagements after her second pregnancy was announced in September. She also had acute morning sickness during her pregnancy with Prince George, who was born in July 2013.

Fashion designer, Oscar de la Renta dies at 82

By **SAMANTHA CRITCHELL**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fashion designer Oscar de la Renta, a favorite of socialites and movie stars alike, has died. He was 82.

The Dominican-born De la Renta — who also lived in Spain and France before coming to New York — was among a group of designers that also included Bill Blass and Geoffrey Beene who helped put the U.S. on the map in the late 1960s as a home of serious

fashion.

His specialty was elaborate, embroidered eveningwear. First ladies Laura Bush and Hilary Clinton both wore de la Renta gowns to inaugural balls, and Penelope Cruz and Sandra Bullock wore his work on the red carpet.

De la Renta catered mostly to his socialite friends and neighbors, but eyed more mass appeal with several fragrances and accessories licenses.



If you could give one piece of advice to a large group of people, what would it be?

“That’s easy. Go and live your life and do whatever you want and have fun, and go sky-diving and do anything and everything.”

What is your greatest passion?

“I want to do everything; all of the things, all of the time. I just think there is a big wide world out there and you should always be doing things.”



The Ataris frontman goes solo at V Club

By **ANTHONY DAVIS**
THE PARTHENON

Long time artist and lead singer of The Ataris turned up the volume at the V Club recently with local acts Motion Theatre and Time & Distance.

The Ataris, named after the video game console of the 70s, have been making music since 1996. Kristopher Roe, the group’s front man, said it all started in his bedroom with his guitar and drum machine.

In 2000, they started touring full time and toured enough that The Ataris, for the most part, has been Roe’s only ob.

Roe said there were two times when people really found out about their band. The first time people took notice was in 1999 with the album “Blue Skies, Broken Hearts, Next 12 Exits” The second time came in 2003, when “So Long Astoria” was released, and made them famous.

“For us, it was always about being organic and building something from the ground up,” Roe said. “When we went to record ‘So Long Astoria,’ which was our major label debut on Columbia Records, we took a fair and honest deal that was all about continuing to build and nurture what we had already built from the grass roots. When we signed at Sony, the seed had been planted and Sony took it to a larger audience. So, getting those songs played to people that weren’t part of that scene could get to experience our band. Music belongs to everyone and the problem with a lot of indie labels is that people have to search it out to find it.”

The Ataris already had a Top 40 hit, “In This Diary,” before major success came with their cover of Don Henley’s “Boys of Summer.” Roe said that KROQ in Los Angeles had released “Boys of Summer” on the radio, and they didn’t even know it. The band had to stop making

a video for “My Reply,” and begin working on a video for “Boys of Summer.”

“We actually covered that song because my grandma passed away, and that song was a tribute to her because she bought me that record when I was eight,” Roe said. “The song was good because it brought people to our band and those people also went and discovered our older albums. I definitely feel with that album I became my own writer.”

Roe, who writes all of the music for the band, said his music has definitely changed over the years for himself. The only album that wasn’t written entirely by Roe was the band’s latest album “Welcome the Night” which was intended to be a group effort.

“If I said that I was writing the same music that I was when I was 15, I would be lying,” Roe said. “I mean, I’m 37 and as a writer you start to realize your strong suits and what you’re good at. For me, what I feel like I’m good at is telling personal stories and trying to make the most vivid detailed pictures.”

In November and December, The Ataris will be on their You Call The Shots tour, where anyone who buys a ticket in advance gets to vote for the songs they want to hear.

“We thought this would be a really fun way to go out and celebrate the almost 15th year touring with the band, and see what people really want to hear. We always play a lot of older songs, but we have a lot of songs and this might give us a chance to play a lot of songs we haven’t played live before.”

The tour kicks off in Indianapolis, Indiana, Nov. 8 and winds down in Phoenix, Arizona, the week before Christmas. The tour will not be headed to West Virginia, but Roe said the band would try to make a couple of missed stops like

Charleston or Huntington after the New Year.

Roe said touring with himself and touring with the band are two completely different things.

“When I’m touring with the band, it’s great because I get to go out with three of my best friends and hang out and play music,” Roe said. “It’s a very communal thing. We do everything ourselves. We’re a team and everyone has a role in the band.”

Touring by myself is good because it’s kind of like a sabbatical. It’s just me and a backpack and my French bulldog all year around.”

Many band members have come and gone over the years, but Roe said the other members are just as much a part of the group as he is.

The Ataris just released four new songs, along with Roe’s acoustic set, that are now available on bandcamp.com, a site that allows artist to sell their songs to fans with a pay-what-you-want system.

Roe said he was excited to play with Motion Theatre and Time & Distance.

“I’m always really happy to play with local bands and all of those guys are really good,” Roe said. “It’s always nice to show up and play music with people that have that same non-egotistical, carefree, very non-rockstar kind of attitude that we do.”

Greg McGowan, the lead singer of Time & Distance, said what Roe does is respectable.

“He’s a lifer,” McGowan said. “He is all about the music and he continues to make good music and stays committed to his fans, and himself as a musician.”

The Ataris have played with local bands like Time & Distance a couple of times before, and Roe said that he cannot wait to play with them again.

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